A bridge between Atlanta and the Appalachian South, the Etowah Valley is where nature meets culture and the timeless meets the timely. At Reinhardt University’s Etowah Valley Writers Institute, New South writers join to create a literature that is story-driven and grounded in the places where we live, rural and urban. Our 60-hour low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing offers classes in poetry, fiction, creative-nonfiction and scriptwriting (screen and stage).

You will work one-on-one with publishing writers in a distance format each fall and spring for two years, and each summer you will come to our beautiful campus in North Georgia for a 10-day intensive Residency. You will also take several online courses with a cohort of other students you have met at the Residency, so you will have the support system of a group of aspiring writers.

“\textit{You will never look at words or the world in the same way. I’ve been privileged to learn from true masters, both through analysis of classic literature and directly through instruction by some of the best writers currently publishing. The experience of community with your fellow students and writers cannot be missed. We’ve learned as much from each other as from the curriculum, and I’ve forged professional relationships with other writers that I hope will last a lifetime.}”

Amy Marie Puckett McGee
MFA in Creative Writing | Fiction
A Rooted Writer Cultivated for a Place in the World

Our program is one of only a few Low-Residency programs in the Southeast and is designed with a regional emphasis. The New South is a synergy of multiple cultural traditions, an intermixture of classic Southern Gothic and the thriving Atlanta film scene, Southern environmentalism and hip-hop poetics, Appalachian bluegrass and the Mississippi blues. We believe that form is both key and constantly evolving to reflect new realities. Most of all, we believe that we all need to tell stories and to hear stories, stories that give voice and meaning to the individual and collective struggles that might otherwise tear us apart.

Most of the writers teaching in our program are from the South and have an interest in expressing what it means to live in the 21st Century South, in all of its diversity and change. There is a rich tradition of Southern writers: William Faulkner, Flannery O’Connor, James Baldwin, Alice Walker and so many more. You can build upon this tradition by writing your South, whether it’s a mountain forest, a one-stoplight small town, or the streets of Atlanta.

Becoming a successful writer means mastering both the skills of the craft and the nuts and bolts of how to get published, and we emphasize both the creative side and the practical side.

Residencies

Our 10-day summer Residencies are intensive immersions in the writing life, with daily writing workshops, craft classes, experiential excursions into natural and urban environments, nightly readings on campus and at local venues, and one-on-one meetings with writing mentors. Our tree-lined campus in the shadow of Pine Log Mountain is the perfect writers’ retreat. Our theme is “Story and Place in the New South.” We value inclusivity and diversity in writing new conceptions of the South, whether by writers whose families have lived here for generations or by new migrants in the changing face of the South. We are particularly interested in regional and environmental approaches to “writing place.”

Fiction | Core Faculty
Ray Atkins, Michael Morris, John Williams

Visiting Writers
George Singleton, Reginald McKnight, Kimberly Brock, Tony Grooms, Michael Bishop, Trudy Nan Boyce

Nonfiction | Core Faculty
Karen Salyer McElmurray, Anjali Enjeti

Poetry | Core Faculty
Bill Walsh, William Wright, Stephen Corey

Visiting Writers
David Bottoms, Adrian Blevins, Sandra Meek, Earl Braggs

Scriptwriting | Core Faculty
Michael Lucker

Visiting Writers
Eddie Zipperer, Amy Zipperer

James Dickey Review Vol. XXXII
Featuring poems by Stephen Dunn, Denise Duhamel and Fred Chappell

Accepting Submissions
Jan. 1-July 1

JamesDickeyReview@reinhardt.edu

REQUEST INFORMATION: reinhardt.edu/gradrequestinfo
APPLY: reinhardt.edu/gradapply